

In the claims:

Claims 1-11 cancelled.

12. (New) A heat exchanger for an internal combustion engine, comprising a coolant inflow having a shutoff device and a cooling return for cooling ducts; an exhaust-gas inlet and an exhaust-gas outlet for exhaust-air ducts wherein the heat exchanger is arranged in a main exhaust-gas flow; a gas reservoir connected at a high point of said coolant ducts, wherein when said shutoff device is closed and an upper limit temperature of a coolant is exceeded, gas is supplied into said coolant ducts; a control unit and a controllable actuator connected with one another through a signal line, said control unit being connected through a further signal line with said shutoff device and depending on actuating of said shutoff device and a temperature of the coolant controls said actuator, so that with said shutoff device closed and exceeding the upper limit temperature of the coolant, gas is supplied from said gas reservoir and the coolant is forced from the heat exchanger shortly before opening of said shutoff device.

13. (New) A heat exchanger as defined in claim 12, wherein said gas reservoir is formed as a bellows; and further comprising a

connecting line which is arranged on a first face of said bellows, said actuator acting on a second face of said bellows opposite to said first face.

14. (New) A heat exchanger as defined in claim 12, wherein said actuator is formed as an actuator selected from the group consisting of an electrically operated actuator, a hydraulically operated actuator, and a pneumatically operated actuator.

15. (New) A heat exchanger as defined in claim 12; and further comprising a bypass provided between said exhaust-gas inlet and said exhaust-gas outlet; a second shutoff device arranged on a branch of said bypass line in order to control said exhaust-gas inlet and said bypass line in a complimentary fashion, so that said bypass line is open to a same degree as said exhaust-gas inlet is restricted and said bypass line is restricted to a same degree as said exhaust-gas line is open.

16. (New) A heat exchanger as defined in claim 12, wherein the heat exchanger is arranged in the main exhaust gas flow in a direction of flow behind a catalytic exhaust-gas converter.